

2015 enacted level and \$35 million more than the House bill.

\$300 million for flooding disasters that occurred in calendar year 2015.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that Title III of Division O of the Omnibus keeps faith with the first responders who risked their lives and sacrificed their health in aid of the fellow human beings who were trapped or perished in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Specifically, Title III of Division O includes the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act which reauthorizes the World Trade Center Health Program through 2090, establishing annual caps for funding for the first 10 years, then increasing the caps to account for inflation in future years and allowing the funding to carry over if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated, this bill is not perfect, but on balance it is a significant improvement over the spending bills considered in the House last year.

SPANKY'S RIVER STREET KICKS OFF 40TH YEAR IN BUSINESS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my friend, Ansley Williams, in celebrating the 40th year of business at Spanky's River Street in Savannah, Georgia.

Spanky's River Street, home of the original chicken finger, began 40 years ago with a dream hatched by brothers Dusty and Alben Yarbrough and Ansley Williams, all natives of Thomaston, Georgia. They opened the original Spanky's restaurant in December 1976 with the idea of selling half-pound burgers and pizza.

Culinary history was made when Alben insisted on having a chicken sandwich on the menu. The only problem was the bird was bigger than the bun. To get it to fit, the edges had to be trimmed off. Alben took the trimmings, tossed them in a special seasoned breading, and fried it up to a golden delicious treat. Right then and there, the original chicken finger was born.

Spanky's River Street kicked off its 40th year in business with a celebration on December 16th to acknowledge and honor employees and patrons, past and present. With a staff as friendly as the happy hour and a history wider than the Savannah River, Spanky's has been a favorite dining spot for locals and visitors alike.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Ansley and the Spanky's family for all their hard work and dedication to Savannah's restaurant community. Congratulations on your 40th year of business.

RECOGNIZING THE EL PASO COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE OFFICE

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office for their efforts in supporting veterans and their dependents and survivors in my district of El Paso, Texas. The Veterans Assistance Office works with veterans and their families to overcome obstacles that may be preventing them from getting the benefits they need and have earned.

The El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office is certified through the Texas Veterans Commission and provides information to our Veterans regarding their eligibility for state and federal benefits. The office assists the veteran and their family through every step of the paperwork process—from researching eligibility requirements to verifying that the claims are filed correctly. The knowledgeable staff led by Mr. Michael Flores works diligently to stay informed on the latest legislation and newest policy in order to best advise veterans and their families.

The Veterans Assistance Office is involved with many local veteran service organizations and is a recognized voice in our area, regularly seen advocating for veterans and raising awareness for veteran issues at different meetings and events in El Paso.

The El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office is deserving of recognition for their continuous support of our veterans. The office takes the time to explain and walk veterans through the process from start to finish, ensuring that they are not forgotten. I am proud of the work that the El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office does to help veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes from Tuesday, December 15, 2015 through Thursday, December 17, 2015, because I was sitting shiva with my family in accordance with Jewish law following the death of my mother Jean Deutch on Friday, December 11, 2015. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 694, I would have voted yea. (H. Res. 536)

On Roll Call 695, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2820)

On Roll Call 696, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 4246)

On Roll Call 697, I would have voted yea. (S. 1090)

On Roll Call 698, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2297)

On Roll Call 699, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 3750)

On Roll Call 700, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 4239)

On Roll Call 701, I would have voted no. (H. Res. 566, On ordering the previous question)

On Roll Call 702, I would have voted no. (H. Res. 566)

On Roll Call 703, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2029, amendment 3b)

On Roll Call 704, I would have voted yea. (On approving the Journal)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2015, I missed two recorded votes due to a previously scheduled meeting. I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present:

On Roll Call Number 700, I would have voted YEA in support of H.R. 4239, the Tracking Foreign Fighters in Terrorist Safe Havens Act.

On Roll Call Number 699, I would have voted YEA in support of H.R. 3750, the First Responders Passport Act of 2015.

These two pieces of legislation will strengthen our national security and deservedly recognize first responders who aid a foreign country following a natural disaster.

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN BERNARD STEWART

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of my dear friend, Al Stewart. Al was a giant of a man with a heart of pure gold. He was the person everyone in his community came to when they needed a helping hand. He never turned anyone away in their hour of need. He was a friend to everyone and a true pillar of our community.

Al Stewart was deeply committed to the safety and security of his fellow citizens. He bravely served his country in our Army during the Korean Conflict. He also served in the Philadelphia Police Department for 25 years, including 5 years in the Gang Control Division.

His commitment to our citizens did not end when he left the Police Department. He moved to the Board of Revision of Taxes where he was dedicated to ensuring that our seniors and citizens of modest means were not unfairly taxed.

Mr. Speaker, Al Stewart honorably served the people of Northwest Philadelphia as a community leader and as their City Councilman. But, his greatest service was as a husband and a father. He deeply loved his late wife Ojetta and was devoted to his children Alinda, Shellyn, and Dwayne.

Al leaves a great legacy behind as he goes on to his reward. Those of us who knew him are better off for that privilege. So, I ask all of my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring him today.